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IDENTICAL LETTERS DATED 17 APRIL 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF UKRAINE TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to forward to you herewith a letter dated 16 April 1999 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, Borys Tarasyuk, who submits a three-phase plan of action on the settlement of the Yugoslav crisis as elaborated and proposed by the President of Ukraine, Leonid Kuchma (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would bring the content of the above-mentioned letter and its enclosure to the attention of the members of the Security Council and have it circulated as a document of the Council.

(Signed) Volodymyr YEL'CHENKO
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of
Ukraine to the United Nations

99-10976 (E) 190499

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Annex

Letter dated 16 April 1999 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to submit to you a three-phase plan of action on the settlement of the Yugoslav crisis as elaborated and proposed by President Leonid Kuchma of Ukraine.

The plan is also submitted to the Secretary-General, the presidencies of the European Union and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, and the Yugoslav authorities.

As you will see, it includes leading international and European institutions as major players in the settlement.

The plan is meant to offer a maximum possible compromise for all the sides involved and comes from Ukraine as an impartial mediator.

(Signed) Borys TARASYUK

Enclosure

Plan of the President of Ukraine on the settlement of the crisis in Yugoslavia

First stage

1. Special meeting of the Security Council at the ministerial level to adopt a resolution which outlines the basic principles of a settlement of the crisis in Yugoslavia and the mandate of a United Nations observer mission, as well as an appeal to OSCE to deploy a humanitarian mission. The resolution shall envisage the appointment of a Special Envoy (Representative) of the Secretary-General on a settlement in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. The composition of the United Nations observer mission and the United Nations peacekeeping forces shall be determined with the authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia by the Security Council, through the Special Envoy (Representative).

2. End of the military actions of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in Kosovo and beginning of the withdrawal of regular security forces of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia from the territory of Kosovo. Simultaneously with the withdrawal of military forces of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in Kosovo NATO ceases air-strikes.

3. The withdrawal of the Yugoslav forces from Kosovo takes place in coordination with the Security Council through the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General. To this end the United Nations observers shall be gradually introduced into Kosovo, comprising representatives of unengaged countries, led by a Special Envoy of the Secretary-General. Their security is guaranteed by NATO military contingents in Macedonia and Albania - "peacekeeping forces in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia".

4. Simultaneously with the beginning of the withdrawal of the Yugoslav forces from Kosovo, representatives of the Kosovar Albanians declare a moratorium on any military actions, deployment of existing forces (KLA) on the territory of Kosovo and introduction of new forces into Kosovo.

5. The implementation of the steps outlined above is verified by the United Nations observers and surveillance aircraft in the framework of the continued system of air surveillance "Eagle's eye", with the participation of aircraft of NATO and non-NATO countries, including Ukraine. Information received during the surveillance flights is constantly provided to all participants in the operation, including Yugoslavia.

Second stage

1. United Nations peacekeeping forces shall be deployed in Kosovo under the mandate of the Security Council. The disposition of those forces shall be agreed by the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General with the authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

2. The Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, together with the United Nations, declares creation of the conditions which provide freedom of movement and security of the refugees for their return to their homes. With the aim of providing guarantees mobile armed groups can be created, comprising unengaged countries as part of the United Nations peacekeeping forces.

3. With the beginning of the return of the refugees or, perhaps, before it, a special OSCE humanitarian mission shall be deployed in Kosovo comprising civilian policemen and forces of "social security" for refugees (Kosovo Verification Mission in a new format) to provide orderly return and settlement of the refugees.

Third stage

After the military actions have ceased and the first stage has been accomplished and the second stage has started, a Peace Conference shall start its work with the participation of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, representatives of the Kosovar Albanians, NATO, mediator countries, including Ukraine, countries of the Contact Group and countries neighbouring the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. The Conference works on the basis of the "10 points" of the Contact Group and Rambouillet political agreements on the settlement of the Kosovo problem. The Conference's aim is to elaborate temporary arrangements for a settlement of the Kosovo crisis, in particular on guarantees for the return of the refugees, as well as to prepare an agreement on the final settlement. The Conference's venue is one of the neutral countries.

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During the whole period until the final settlement of the refugee problem, the international community, in the first place European countries, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the International Committee of the Red Cross, provide necessary humanitarian assistance to the refugees, citizens of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, and to the countries neighbouring Yugoslavia, which received the majority of refugees on their territory.